

Bijlage I: Mondeling statement van minister Ploumen in het Development Committee

Madam Chair,

This is not yesterday's Bank. Just in the recent past, the term inequality was considered too controversial for the title of the 2006 World Development Report, in the end called "Equity and Development". Today, controversy has given way to common sense: Governors are talking about inequality right here at the Development Committee. Inequality is not just about globalization, it is also about governance. Globalization does not raise all the boats, but sometimes venal elites just keep vulnerable people from climbing on board. Distribution of income cannot be seen separate from distribution of power. So let's apply the lessons of this year's World Development Report on Governance and the Law here.

Madam Chair,

Just like blind market forces did not on their own bring about inequality, the forces of nature alone did not cause today's famine in Africa and Yemen. Even when the rain returns, it will not wash away the blame that irresponsible leaders bear. I commend Management for quickly putting together a 1.8-billion-dollar emergency package. Beyond the current crisis, I call on the Bank to also gear its long-term development programs in the relevant countries towards addressing underlying governance failures and building resilience. Resilience that will be bolstered as well by the Climate Change Action Plan – after all, as the temperature rises, food production drops. Exactly one year ago, this Action Plan already got the green light, now let's get to that greener future.

Madam Chair,

Let me now turn from external challenges to internal ones. As we build tomorrow's Bank, a better Bank, let's further tighten the bonds with clients, among World Bank Group partners and with the UN.

First, with clients. The best way to get closer to clients is to literally get closer to them. At least half of all Bank staff should be right where development happens. We look forward to such a target in the next progress update of the Forward Look.

Second, on tightening the bonds among World Bank Group partners. Working together as One World Bank Group is the only way to move from rhetoric to results on "Billions to Trillions" and the cascade. An ambitious target for private capital mobilization should be added to the Forward Look results framework.

Third, on tightening the bonds with the UN. It was great to see Secretary-General Guterres at the Development Committee Lunch. His focus on conflict prevention resonates. It resonates with the Netherlands as an incoming member of the Security Council. It resonates here at the World Bank. We live in a time of multilateralism questioned. For multilateral organizations, this is the worst time to compete and the best time to cooperate. So the Bank and the UN should continue down that path of working together.

Madam Chair,

Let me conclude. Especially in this day and age, we need a better Bank to make the case for the institution. We surely need it to make the case for a bigger Bank, something we are ready to think about. My constituency remains committed to the Lima Roadmap. But rather than rushing, let's get it right. Let's bring everybody here along, because we're in this together, one world. After all, as then US Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau said at the Bretton Woods conference: "Prosperity, like peace, is indivisible." Thank you.